

Mont. 17-51-25

c. 1896

Johnson Family House

Poolesville vicinity, Jerusalem community

Private

This one and a half story frame house contained one room down and two rooms up with a one story frame kitchen attached to the rear length. Its facade consisted of three bays. The house was built by the community carpenter, George Dorsey, a handsome neo-Georgian style mantelpiece.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Johnson Family House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

South side of Jerusalem Church Road

CITY, TOWN

Poolesville

VICINITY OF Jerusalem community 3

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Sarah A. Elizabeth Robinson

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER c/o Mrs. Margaret Harper Dorsey

Jerusalem Church Road

CITY, TOWN

Poolesville

☒ VICINITY OFSTATE, zip code  
Maryland**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Regsitry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

M. 7-5P25

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This one and a half story house stands on the west side of Jerusalem Road, facing east. It stands on the beginning of a slope that ascends to the west. In front of it near the road is a small stream and marsh.

The facade is sheltered by a shed porch along the entire length. The facade consists of three bays, like most houses of this type. It closely resembles, for example, the Grimes-Jackson house across the street. The house has principal block of one room with a smaller one story kitchen attached to the rear length.

In plan the interior contained the one room downstairs and the rear kitchen, and two rooms upstairs. A boxed stairway along the back wall led to the upper chambers. Neither gable end had windows. The most striking feature inside the house was the handsome mantelpiece of neo-Georgian design. It is the highest style decorative feature seen in these houses of Black families in Jerusalem and Jonesville. See photographs of the interior.

Few of the outbuildings, work places, and animal barns remain from the earlier days. According to Mrs. Dorsey, who was raised here by her grandmother, there was a garden to the south of the house, where they raised vegetables. They were canned and stored in the cellar along with canned fruit. Root vegetables such as potatoes were stored in vegetable kilns. South of the kitchen was the meat house, and behind it were two hen houses. Behind the house and up the hill were apple and pear trees. Further south of the house was the stable for the work horses, and the hog pen. During the hot summer months, the hogs were brought up to the marsh along Jerusalem Road, and allowed to use this place as their wallow since there was always plenty of water there to keep them cool. *Only the meat house remains.*

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

*Black History*

SPECIFIC DATES

*C. 1896*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to deed JA 55/395, Sarah Ann Elizabeth Johnson purchased this tract of 2 acres from Samuel B. Milford in 1896. Milford was one of the large landowners near the south side of the Jerusalem community. This purchase was at about the same as those of James Clarke and the two brothers, Frank and George Dorsey, establishing this family as among the second generation of landowning settlers in the Jerusalem community.

According to Margaret Harper Dorsey, the current occupant of the house and one of the heirs, her grandmother, Sarah Ann Elizabeth Robinson, was the sister of Mary Robinson Lyles (wife of William Lyles, 17-51-16), and the daughter of Virginia Robinson, who owned property nearby, 17-51-21. This is another example of the network of extended families in this and other Black 19th century communities.

Mrs. Dorsey's father was Stanley Harper, whose father was Richard Thomas Harper from Jonesville. His birthplace has been surveyed, 17-8-4.

Though the house is of modest size and construction, the decorative trims along the window and door frames with fluted trim boards and corner blocks with concentric circles (the type popular to the era) enhance the style of the interior, as does the handsome neo-Georgian mantelpiece. According to Mrs. Dorsey, this house was built by George Dorsey, the Black carpenter in the community, whose log house has been recorded, 17-51-4, and a photograph of him has also been copied. Thus we see an example of a local person using his skills in the construction of his neighbor's house. This house was built soon after the marriage of the John Johnson and Sarah Anne Robinson and the purchase of this property in 1896.

Like many houses that are now heir property, this one is in need of repair and is not as attractive as it was when the newly married, young Johnson couple moved into it in the late 1890's. They did not keep this house all to themselves for long however; Mrs. Dorsey recalls that her grandmother raised 10 children here.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1) Oral interviews with Margaret Dorsey and Howard Lyles, September-October, 1978, Jerusalem community, by George McDaniel, not taped.
- 2) Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, MD

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE FOR PREPARED

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Surveyor

Wesley Stubbs, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

Oct. 1978

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

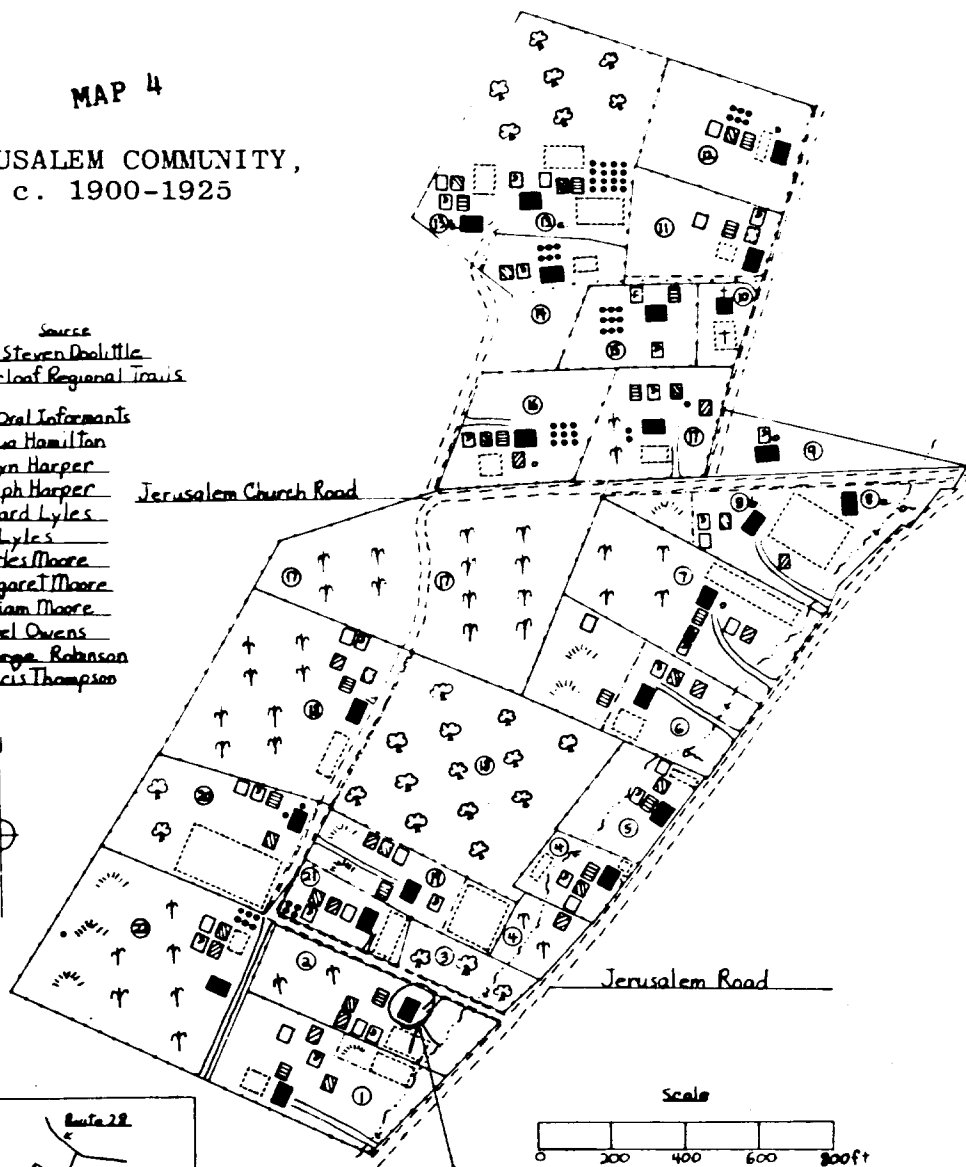
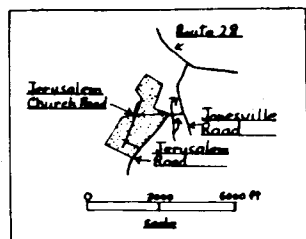
SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510

YRA22E05E 11 T2E2E E

MAP 4  
JERUSALEM COMMUNITY,  
c. 1900-1925

Source  
Steven Doolittle  
Sugarloaf Regional Trails

Oral Informants  
Joshua Hamilton  
Evelyn Harper  
Joseph Harper  
Howard Lyles  
Ora Lyles  
Charles Moore  
Margaret Moore  
William Moore  
Isabel Owens  
George Robinson  
Francis Thompson



M: 17-51-25

Key

CHURCH	
CEMETERY	
LODGE	
COMMUNITY CENTER	
STORE	
POST OFFICE	
SCHOOL	
DWELLING	
PRIVY	
STABLE	
MEAT HOUSE	
BEN HOUSE	
MILK HOUSE	
CORN/FEED HOUSE	
PIG PEN	
GARDEN	
PASTURE	
CORNFIELD	
HAY FIELD	
ORCHARD	
FOREST	
THICKET	
WELL	
SPRING	
STREAM	
POND	
PARCEL BOUNDARY	
FENCED PARCEL BDY.	
FENCE	
DIRT ROAD	
LANE	
PATH	
STREAM FLOW	

DWELLINGS AND OUTBUILDINGS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE  
HSTD. = HOMESTEAD PROP. = PROPERTY

1. WILLIAM ROBINSON ESTD.	3.22 AC.
2. SARAH JOHNSON ESTD.	2.00 AC.
3. MILTON HARPER ESTD.	1.00 AC.
4. WILLIAM LYLES ESTD.	2.00 AC.
5. SUSAN PROCTOR ESTD.	1.00 AC.
6. FRANK DORSEY ESTD.	2.90 AC.
7. GEORGE DORSEY ESTD.	4.75 AC.
8a. 1st CLARKE HOME (log)	4.40 AC.
b. 2nd CLARKE HOME (frame)	
9. JERUSALEM PARSONAGE	1.50 AC.
10. JERUSALEM CHURCH	0.50 AC.
11. WILLIAM DORSEY ESTD.	2.00 AC.
12. JAMES DORSEY ESTD.	3.00 AC.
13a. WILLIAM MOORE ESTD.	7.00 AC.
b. HARTLEY MOORE ESTD.	
14. DAVID COPELAND ESTD.	2.00 AC.
15. ROBERT WILLIAMS ESTD.	3.75 AC.
16. WALLACE HAMILTON ESTD.	2.50 AC.
17. DENNIS HAMILTON ESTD.	9.66 AC.
18. CHARLES McPHERSON ESTD.	11.00 AC.
19. LIZZIE GRIMES ESTD.	4.00 AC.
20. GEORGE LYLES ESTD.	3.00 AC.
21. JOHN HARPER ESTD.	1.00 AC.
22. JOHN HALLMAN ESTD.	10.00 AC.

Johnson Family Home (Sarah Johnson Homestead)  
Poolesville Quad, 1970, PR 1978





M-17-51-24

Johnson Family House

Interior: Detail

Jerusalem Community

By George McDaniel

Negatives

Post Card



Kodak

paper and equipment used  
to produce this picture.

POSTAL PATENT  
U.S. PATENT NO. 2,177,401

Big Shots  
NOV. 1978



BigShots

NOV., 1978

POST-A-PHOTO

U.S. Patent No. 3,875,361

paper and equipment used  
to produce this picture.

Kodak

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Post Card

M717-51-24

Johnson Family House

Jerusalem Community

By George McDaniel

Negatives



BigShots

NOV., 1978

POST-IT PHOTO  
U.S. Patent No. 3,875,961

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Post Card

M-17-ST-25  
Johnson Family House

Jerusalem Community  
By George McDaniel  
Negatives

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Big Shots

NOV., 1978

POST-A-PHOTO

U.S. Patent No. 3,875,001

PLACE  
STAMP  
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Post Card

M-17-51-24

Johnson Family House

Interior: Detail

Jerusalem Community

By George McDaniel

Negatives

paper and equipment used  
to produce this picture.

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**BigShots**

NOV., 1978

**POST-A-PRO**

U.S. Patent No. 3,877,151

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to produce this picture.

**Kodak**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**Post Card**

11-17-51-24

Johnson Family House

Interior: Detail

Jerusalem Community

By George McDaniel

Negative